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REMARKS

The abstract has been amended. Claims 2-9 have been amended. Claims 1 and 10-19 have been canceled. Claims 20 and 21 have been added. Claims 2-9 and 20-21 remain pending. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application, as amended, are requested.

The Examiner objected to some language in the abstract. The abstract has been amended.

The Examiner objected to claims 1 and 10 because of certain language. Claims 1 and 10 have been canceled. The Examiner rejected claims 16 and 17 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 16 and 17 have been canceled.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-19 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Rathmann et al. The independent claims 1 and 10 have been rewritten as claims 20 and 21 and the remaining pending claims depend from these new claims. The system of claim 20 requires a cover having edges forming undercut sections with U-shaped profiles. The system further requires the fixation device to have a U-shaped portion which fits within an undercut section to lock the fixation device to the cover. Although Rathmann shows a cover having an edge forming an undercut section with a U-shaped profile, Rathmann does not disclose a fixation device having a U-shaped portion such that the U-shaped portion fits within one of the undercut sections of the cover. Hence, Rathmann does not anticipate the system of claim 20.

Likewise, this system of claim 21 requires second locking means for locking the fixation device to one of the undercut sections of the cover. Rathmann does not disclose such second locking means to one of the undercut sections, and, hence, does not anticipate claim 21.

Furthermore, the claims which depend from claim 20 and 21 are patentable.

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In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination are requested. Allowance of claims 2-9 and 20-21 at an early date is solicited. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Curtis B. Hamre, Reg. 29,165, at (612)455-3802.

Respectfully submitted,



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